

CLEAN VERSION OF THE AMENDMENTS
IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claim 1 to read as follows, newly add claims 21-30 by this amendment and cancel claims 3 and 9-15 without prejudice or disclaimer as to their subject matter by this amendment as follows:

1. (Amended) A portable memory device for a USB-supporting data processing system, the memory device comprising:
a USB connector for being connected to a USB port of the data processing system;
an integrated circuit memory for writing/reading data;
a connector cover protecting the USB connector from damage, the connector cover capable of sliding automatically backwards upon insertion of the portable memory device into said USB port exposing the USB connector; and
a USB interface coupled between the USB connector and the memory, for interfacing the memory with the data processing system.

--21. The device of claim 1, wherein backwards is a direction that is opposite to a direction of insertion of said memory device into said USB port.

22. The device of claim 1, further comprising a spring coupled between said connector cover and a housing of the device, said spring being biased to push said cover away from said housing to cover said integrated circuit memory when no pressure is applied to said spring.

23. The device of claim 22, said spring being compressed upon attachment of said portable memory device to said USB port.

24. The device of claim 1, said cover having a ridge protruding from a side portion of said cover that engages a concave groove in said housing enabling said cover to slide forwards and backwards with respect to said housing.

25. A method for securing a host computer, comprising the steps of:
applying power to the host computer;
determining whether a USB security device is attached to a USB port on the host;
displaying an error message when it is determined that the USB security device is not attached to the USB port of the host;

reading a password from the USB security device and comparing the read password with a password stored in the host;

displaying an error message when the password on the USB security device does not match the password stored in the host and preventing the host from being booted when the password on the USB security device does not match the password stored in the host; and

booting up the host computer only when the USB security device is attached to the USB port of the host and only when the password stored in the USB security device matches the password stored in the host computer.

26. The method of claim 25, further comprising the step of enabling a hard disk drive in the host only when the USB security device is attached to the USB port of the host and only when the password stored in the USB security device matches the password stored in the host computer.

27. The method of claim 25, said booting step comprising loading an operating system in the host.

28. The method of claim 25, said reading and comparing step being performed prior to when the host computer is booted up.

29. The method of claim 25, further comprising the step of attaching the USB security device to the USB port of the host computer prior to when power is applied to the host.

30. The method of claim 29, said attaching step comprising automatically sliding a cover on said USB security device backward in a direction opposite to a direction of inserting the USB security device into the USB port when the USB security device is attached to the USB port of the host computer.--